

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 PM-09 NSC-10

SS-15 RSC-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 AGR-20 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 /129 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ IAI: JTM Candrew: DF

4/11/73 X21714

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NEA/ IAI: HHSTACKHOUSE

IO/ UNP: ETGREENE (SUUS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 067628

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SREF, UNRWA, XF, IS

SUBJECT: REDUCED US FLOUR CONTRIBUUTION TO UNRWA FY 74

REF: TEL AVIV 2779

1. DEPT. SHARES VIEW REFTTEL THAT INCREASED EMPLOYMENT AMONG UNRWA- REGISTERED REFUGEES, ESPECIALLY ON WEST BANK AND GAZA BUT ALSO IN EAST JORDAN, SYRIA AND LEBANON, AFFORDS COMGEN OPPORTUNITY UNDERTAKE HARD NEW LOOK AT BASIC RATIONS DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM AS POSSIBLE WAY REDUCE ANTICIPATED OPERATING DEFICIT IN CY-1973 WITH MINIMUM ADVERSE IMPACT ON REFUGEE WELL- BEING. AT SAME TIME WE CAN APPRECIATE SIR JOHN' S RELUCTANCE TAKE STEPS UNILATERALLY TO REDUCE OPERATIONS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, PARTICULARLY WHEN GOI HAS BEEN NO
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MORE WILLING THAN ARAB HOST GOVTS HAVE TO COOPERATE IN PROVIDING AGENCY WITH SPECIFIC DATA ON REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT UPON WHICH AGENCY COULD UASE DECISIONS FOR REMOVING NAMES FROM RATION ROLLS.

2. FRANKLY, WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND GOI RELUCTANCE DISCUSS WITH COMGEN ISSUE OF RECTIFICATION RATION ROLLS OR OTHER CHANGES IN AGENCY' S OPERATIONS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. WHILE USG AS REPEATEDLY URGED COMGEN TO TAKE STEPS REMOVE NAMES OF PERSONS WHO NO LONGER REQUIRE WELFARE ASSISTANCE AND TO INSTITUTE OTHER ECONOMIES TO REDUCE DEFICIT, WE RECOGNIZE HE CAN ONLY ACT WITH FULL COOPERATION OF LOCAL

GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES. RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANAGEMENT OF AGENCY' S LIMITED RESOURCES RESTS WITH HIM AND HE MUST DECIDE WHEN AND HOW TO MAKE CUTS HE JUDGES NECESSARY IN CONSULTATION WITH HOST GOVTS. WHILE WE WOULD PREFER TO SEE SIR JOHN EFFECT ECONOMIES INITIALLY WITHIN BASIC RATIONS PROGRAM, A COURSE OF ACTION WHICH INCREASED WORLD FLOUR PRICES MAY IN ANY EVENT FORCE UPON HIM, WE BELIEVE IT INCUMBENT ON AGENCY AND LOCAL GOVT AUTHORITIES TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE, NOT USG.

3. EVEN IF OUR CURRENT EFFORTS FIND WAY AVOID FULL IMPACT OF RISING FLOUR PRICES THIS YEAR ARE SUCCESSFUL, PROSPECTS UNRWA AVOIDING NEED FOR SOME PROGRAM REDUCTIONS IN 1973 APPEAR DIM. THEREFORE, WE WOULD HOPE THAT THROUGH FRANK DISCUSSIONS WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS SIR JOHN COULD REACH UNDERSTANDING ON BEST COURSE FOR UNRWA TAKE TO REDUCE EXPENSES IN WELFARE AREA IN ORDER MAINTAIN INTEGRITY OF AGENCY' S EDUCATION PROGRAMS. WE WOULD WELCOME SIR JOHN' S ASSESSMENT PROSPECTS OBTAINING HOST GOVERNMENT COOPERATION TO ACHIEVE THIS END FOR, IF THERE IS TO BE EQUITABLE AND ORDERLY PROGRAM OF RECTIFICATION TO PRESERVE MORE CONSTRUCTIVE ELEMENTS OF UNRWA PROGRAM, HOST GOVERNMENT COOPERATION WILL CLEARLY BE ESSENTIAL. ROGERS

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